DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
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Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

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SPLITTING PALM FOR FOOD IN THE MARKET: RIO DE JANEIRO

With a French dressing it is very good, but most people prefer it boiled and serve it with a butter sauce—a sort of gigantic asparagus. Brazil is the land of palms, and these trees supply about every need for the country folk, contributing to the three primary needs of man which economists talk about—food, shelter and clothing

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Origin of "April Fool"

EVEN in these times of efficiency and hard work, there is still one day when a man may not only play the fool, but his friends are privileged to give him a headlong push down "fools' hill."

The origin of the custom of playing practical jokes on friends and neighbors on this "All Fools' Day" is variously explained. Some of these explanations may interest those who have eaten cotton pie and bean chocolates.

Some writers trace the custom back to the days of the miracle plays given at Easter time. One of the most popular tableaux satirized Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate, and Herod. In the decadent days of these dramas actors played largely for the amusement and applause of the groundlings, until Herod, in out-Heroding himself, and Pilate, in the performance of his ablutions, literally made fools of themselves.

A "Feast of Fools" Among Romans

A "Feast of Fools" was held in the early spring by the Romans; and the Hindus, since time immemorable, have celebrated as a Saturnalia the vernal equinox, or Feast of Huli. During these festivities the chief amusement seems to have been that of fooling people and sending them on fruitless errands.

Many students trace the origin back no farther than France in the sixteenth century. At any rate, the custom seems to have radiated from France to England as well as to Germany, if we are to believe what Grimm says about it. France was the first nation to adopt the reformed calendar which decreed that the year should begin on the first of January. Consequently, those who objected to sending out their New Year's gifts and felicitations upon the newly chosen date instead of April 1, as they had done previously, subjected themselves to endless taunts for being old fogies by going on visits that then had no meaning.

French Call Victim an "April Fish"

The French call the victim of a prank on April 1, "un poisson d'avril," or "an April fish," of which our American slang, "you poor fish," is a good translation. The origin of the expression used in this connection probably arose in the obvious comparison between the person who "bites" unwittingly and the April fish, which is a young fish and therefore easily caught.

In Scotland April Fool's day is observed, but under a slightly different name—the day for "hunting the gowk" or cuckoo. Some few of us who, in our unsophisticated days, have gone "snipe hunting" in this country, know how the fellow feels who hunts the gowk, and realize that to be called an "April-Cuckoo," is not a compliment, that bird's name being a by-word of contempt in almost every land.

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PLAZA DE MAYO: BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires is the most populous and the richest city in the southern half of the globe. Fifty years ago the Argentine was what Illinois and Iowa and Kansas were a hundred years ago—it had millions of undeveloped acres of the best black soil the earth has to offer. But they were scores and even hundreds of miles from a railroad. Then came the railroads, opening up the country and making a thousand millionaires almost overnight

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Rio de Janeiro: Has Hillside Homes Entered From Roof

RIO DE JANEIRO, first of the three South American capitals to be visited by former Secretary of State Colby on his recent journey of courtesy to our neighboring continent, is described as follows in a communication from Harriet Chalmers Adams to the National Geographic Society:

"This city of lure terraces up from a glorious bay—the Bay of Guanabara, mountain-encircled, isle-bejeweled. From the shore, where parks and boulevards are fast crowding out the old Rio of narrow streets, rise the forested hills on whose slopes the lovelier portion of the city lies. Place your hands on the table, fingers spread, wrists upraised. Each finger represents one of Rio's hills; each space between, a canyon up which the city climbs.

"Many of the new homes cling to the hillside below the streets and are entered from the roof. Others of these cliff dwellings perch high above the thoroughfare and are reached by a long flight of steps or by elevator on an inclined plane. Some bear the name of the lady of the manor over the front door—'Villa Rosita,' 'Villa Lucia'—and the dark-eyed lady herself is often seen leaning from the window.

Vistas Unequaled in Beauty

"Can any other city offer such entrancing vistas as those from the mountain heights back of Rio? I have traveled far and have yet to find it. Turning bayward, we look down through a frame of tangled vines and branches, on to the tree-tops of the sloping virgin forest. A scarlet-winged bird flits to a nearby tree-fern; a big blue butterfly zigzags lazily by. There are purple orchids within reach and waxen begonias at our feet. Far below, set in verdure, gleams the kaleidoscopic city, with its crescent shores.

"The bay, set in its amphitheater of hills, sparkles like a sapphire. To and fro among the ships at anchor ply the busy paddlewheel ferry-boats to the islands and to Nictheroy, the little sister city across the way. In the distance tower the blue spires of the lofty Organ Mountains. Today we can see the sharp crag called 'The Finger of God.' Often it is veiled in mist.

Pleasure Beaches in Glistening Chain

"Oceanward we look down on titanic granite mountains rising sheer from the sea. There is bulky Babylonia, and flat-topped Gavea, like a great sail unfurled. Between them lie Rio's suburban beaches—Leme, Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon—in a glistening chain, their white villas nestling between hill and shore. The Avenida Atlantica, which connects them, is equaled only by boulevards along the Mediterranean.

"Avenida Rio Branco, Rio's finest thoroughfare, is more than a mile in length and so wide that it consists of two distinct boulevards separated by a row of shade trees. It is thronged day and night with automobiles. The

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A BRAZILIAN ENGINEER CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF THIS AERIAL ROPEWAY TO SUGAR LOAF, THE 1,383-FOOT SENTINEL OF RIO BAY

The peak had been scaled by a British middy, who raised the Union Jack, and by a girl from the United States, who unfurled the Stars and Stripes. The car accommodates twenty passengers. The counterweight of each cable is thirty tons, and the fixed cables offer a resistance of 150 tons each. Some people are timid about making this aerial trip. It is like sailing in a balloon

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Montevideo: The City of the Happy Medium

IN contrast to the many unique, amazing and even bizarre features of Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo offers a contrast of what, in the United States, would be described as "quiet respectability."

Physically situated so that it is one of the healthiest cities in the world, with an equable climate which makes it a delightful place to live in, and possessing an atmosphere free from the bustle and noise of the more modern and commercial Buenos Aires and the more metropolitan Rio, Montevideo has become the resort city of South America's Atlantic coast. Thousands of wealthy South Americans are to be found there at nearly all seasons of the year, participating in the carnivals, gambling in the great government-owned casinos that may be compared to those of Monte Carlo, or merely enjoying the restful life of this city which still clings to the Spanish habit of looking to "manana."

Since Montevideo is in the southern hemisphere its seasons are the reverse of those in the United States. Visitors are especially numerous for the bathing season which begins in October, corresponding to the northern May, and is at its height at Christmas, the southern midsummer.

Has Touches of New York and Paris

Detached impressions of Montevideo will bring to mind many similes and contrasts with better known cities. Like New York it covers a narrow peninsula from shore to shore; but in architecture it is the antithesis of the North American metropolis, being made up of a seemingly vast number of low stone buildings, a few two or three stories in height, the great majority of them but one story.

The principal thoroughfare, "The Avenue of the Eighteenth of July," extending along the ridge of the peninsula, with its colonnades and sidewalk cafés, gives a touch of Paris. And as a great packing center for the live stock produced on the unsurpassed pastures of Uruguay, Montevideo is comparable to Chicago or Kansas City. Evidence of this fact is sometimes wafted on the winds when they blow to the city from the seat of the gigantic industry across the bay.

Men and Women Keep to Themselves

In physical equipment Montevideo is modern. It is well lighted, well watered, adequately supplied with transportation facilities, and most admirably drained. Socially it clings to the past, following more faithfully than any other large city outside of Spain and the Orient the old Spanish-Moorish traditions of society's proper attitude toward women.

Courting is still carried on by smitten swains parading below the balconies of their señoritas and whispering sweet nothings to them—from a safe distance. Ladies go freely on the streets, but not in the company of men. "Society" is mainly a matter of family parties. Even at the opera there are sepa-

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sidewalks, the widest I have ever seen, are black-and-white stones laid in mosaic design, like those in vogue in Lisbon. Both stones and workmen were brought from Portugal, but similar pavements, constructed later in other parts of the city, are 'home made.'

Waiting Movie Fans Regaled With Music

"At the cinema theaters the people of Rio de Janeiro know real comfort. Unlike our moving-picture houses, those in Rio have spacious waiting rooms, where you sit, listening to excellent music, until the hour for the first reel comes round.

"Rio's climate is often maligned, but it suits those who like spring and summer weather. It is never as warm as summer in many of our Eastern and Middle West cities, and the nights on the hills are nearly always cool.

"Now and then on the wide world trail we find a scene which dominates. Such is Rio de Janeiro, City of Lure. So long as glory of form and color gladden the eye, Rio will stand preëminent in beauty among the habitations of man."

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Buenos Aires: A Capital of Superlatives and Contrasts

BUENOS AIRES, capital of Argentina, which recently attracted world attention by withdrawing its representatives from the League of Nations Assembly, is not merely the capital and chief port of a South American republic. It is a world center—a city of superlatives, contrasts, and paradoxes.

Its population of close to 2,000,000 makes it, by a wide margin, the metropolis of South America and the Southern hemisphere. It is the greatest of Spanish-speaking cities, having nearly three times as many inhabitants as Madrid. It is greater than all Latin cities except Paris. In the New World it shares third place with Philadelphia; only New York and Chicago surpass it. And now that Petrograd and Moscow have shrunk while Berlin and Vienna are marking time, it probably ranks or soon will rank as the sixth city of the world, led only by the two metropolises of Europe, the two of North America, and Tokio, in Asia.

Discloses Subways, Commuters and Tall Buildings

This great city is the focus of the culture, thought, politics, economics, and social life of Argentina as well as the funnel through which pour the millions of pounds of dressed meats and the millions of bushels of wheat which make up the contribution of the republic to the hungry peoples of the Old World. Its language is the language of Spain, but many other things Spanish have been thrust aside. Its inhabitants would laugh at the idea of a midday siesta—so generally observed in most Spanish-American countries. The obsession of "mañana" has been discarded; the people of Buenos Aires live in the throbbing present, going strenuously about their business in streets whose bustle and whirl are as balm to the heart of the homesick New Yorker who feels that after all he cannot be far from Broad and Wall or Forty-second and Broadway. Subways, commuters, and taller buildings than can be found in any other city in South America heighten the illusion.

The rapid development of Argentina has made innumerable fortunes, and the stream of gold has been poured lavishly into the lap of Buenos Aires. In no other city, perhaps, can one see so strikingly displayed the evidences of extreme opulence. And while a large proportion of the populace is fairly well to do, marked contrasts are not lacking, especially in the case of many of the recent immigrants who live in squalid hovels on some of the outskirts of the city.

Built World's Greatest Docks

In progress and the possession of vision the people of Buenos Aires are unsurpassed even by the restless builders of North America's greatest cities. For centuries after its establishment Buenos Aires was without a port. Ships anchored miles from the shallow, sandy shore and all freight was handled in lighters. Within the last twenty-five years the municipality has constructed

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rate galleries for men and women, and unless a Montevidean family man can afford the price of orchestra seats he must view the production from one level while his wife looks on from another.

A cloistered life can hardly be said to have affected the appearance of the women adversely. Throughout South America Montevideo has the reputation formerly possessed by Budapest of harboring the most beautiful women of its continent.

As in other large South American cities, moving-picture theaters are omnipresent. Most of the films they show are imported from the United States.

Match Boxes Preach Thumbnail Sermons

Montevideo has nearly a score of daily newspapers, and the voices of a small army of newsboys are heard constantly except during an hour and a half at midday when a "siesta" is enforced by law for all business. With the voices of the newsboys mingle those of youths and derelict adults hawking government lottery tickets or boxes of matches from the sale of which the government also obtains revenue. On each match box is printed a moral maxim which may be considered the al fresco substitute for the framed mottoes that adorn some North American homes.

Just as Uruguay is free from physical extremes—it is without mountains or gorges, deserts or jungles—so Montevideo is without social extremes. It has no squalid slums and no ostentatious "millionaires' row." It may not ineptly be dubbed a comfortable bourgeois paradise.

Montevideo is famed for its port, which is one of the best on the Atlantic coast of the Americas. The city has a population exceeding 400,000, more than a quarter of the population of the entire 72,000 square miles of the republic. In 1800 Montevideo was the largest and most important city in South America. It is now surpassed by Buenos Aires, Rio, and Santiago de Chile, while its rank as fourth city is closely contested by Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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Tsaribrod: A Region of Rumors and Aromas

SERBIAN forces were reported a few weeks ago to have entered Tsaribrod, hitherto on the Bulgarian side of the border, preparatory to occupation of a strip of territory detached from Bulgaria by the Treaty of Neuilly which followed the World War.

One traveler has described the roadbed along this segment over which the luxurious Orient Express used to make its semi-weekly trip from Paris to Constantinople, as the worst in the world; and the mountain scenery as the finest. Probably both statements were exaggerated. But the ravines, boulders and torrential streams of the Nishava River region, just before the railway crosses the Bulgarian frontier, are comparable to the Alps and sometimes suggest our own Grand Canyon region in miniature.

Where Home-Garden Movement Thrives

Tsaribrod is inconspicuous. It shelters a population of only a few thousand. It has the inevitable castle, which still seems to keep a frowning guard over red-roofed houses. Significantly, in view of the economic life of Bulgaria, and the recent marked preponderance of agrarian representation in the government, each house has its garden.

Agriculturally, Bulgaria seems a land of tobacco and roses. But, though these aromatic products rank high statistically, the home-garden movement has long been a habit in Bulgaria, and the major portion of this garden-to-table production does not show in either export or local market records.

After the Orient Express passes the border line it traverses the Slivnitza battlefield, the Bunker Hill of Bulgaria; and the first important city after Sofia is Philippopolis, in the vicinity of which one of the world's most esthetic industries is established—that of cultivating rose gardens to distill attar of roses.

The Kalamazoo of Bulgaria

At Philippopolis, under pressure of expected attacks from Turkey, Prince Alexander was installed as the head of the newly united Bulgarian states in 1885. Unexpectedly it was Serbia, not Turkey, which made the move in protest against the union with Eastern Rumelia. The Serbian forces mobilized in the Nishava Valley; the Bulgarian army was far away. Hence, a famous order, which resulted in the making of military history, to commanders of Bulgar units to hasten to Slivnitza. The speed with which the troops were moved, in this helter-skelter fashion, was remarkable. Their movement was accelerated by orders to citizens to furnish supplies as they passed. The advance guard held the Serbian forces, which were headed for Sofia, or Slivnitza. When reinforcements arrived the enemy was defeated. The Serbian armistice proposal was presented at Tsaribrod. This incident gave Bulgaria a sense of national unity and prowess which may be compared to that which Japan attained by her defeat of the Russians.

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the largest artificial docks in the world. These provide adequate facilities for the thousands of ocean vessels and coasting craft that put into its port annually.

The narrow checker-board of streets in the business center which the colonial Buenos Aires bequeathed to the world-city of today has been a constant embarrassment in the face of the demands of modern business. The municipality has widened some of these narrow ways at a cost of many millions of dollars, into stately and handsome avenues, and is carving other arteries of traffic diagonally through the closely packed squares.

In the newer parts of the city, streets of ample width and numerous broad avenues have been laid out. Many of the avenues are lined with the costly palaces of Argentina's multi-millionaires. It is in this part of the city and in such semi-business avenues as the tree-rimmed Avenida de Mayo with its mile or more of fine hotels, clubs, cafés, and business buildings de luxe, that Buenos Aires reminds the traveler of Paris. The comparison is forced on the observer again when he drives in the afternoon through Palermo Park, the Bois de Boulogne of Buenos Aires, and becomes a part of the seemingly interminable procession of smart equipages bearing their throng of well-dressed men and women.

Women Ahead of Parisiennes in Fashions

The men of Buenos Aires are up-to-date in all things; but its women are even ahead of the times. They wear the latest Paris creations even before they are donned by the Parisiennes themselves. Climate must be given its rightful place in the explanation of this paradox. Summer models are designed in Paris in December, and the reversal of the seasons south of the equator makes these seemingly premature creations fitting attire in Buenos Aires in January and February when they reach the beau monde of that distant metropolis.

Buenos Aires is in the south latitude corresponding to that of Charleston, S. C., north of the equator, and has a climate somewhat like that of the country between Charleston and Norfolk, though drier. Something more than half the population is made up of Argentinos. The two most important remaining factors are Italian and Spanish immigrants. There are relatively small numbers of British, North Americans, French, and Germans, and a sprinkling of many other peoples.

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BULGARIAN PEASANT GIRL LEADING AN OX-CART THROUGH THE SUBURBS OF SOFIA

Peasant girls in the Balkans begin to take their share in the rough work of the farm at an age when they should still be playing with their dolls. By the time these girls have reached young womanhood their hands are hard with callous and their backs bowed. These women are as powerful and as enduring as their men, and there is little cause for wonder that the harvests and the plantings were as large during the Balkan wars, when all the men were at the front, as they were before the fighting population had been called away